

From: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 3/15/2012 5:21:18 PM
To: "Laura Legere" <llegere@timeshamrock.com>
CC:
Subject: Re: Dimock test results

Some of the results returned to residents had yellow highlighted parameters that exceeded what was described in the cover letter as "trigger levels" based on risk-based screening levels and/or public water supply standards. Those highlighted results included arsenic, lithium, chromium, fluoride and sodium in one home. The cover letter said that those flagged results would be reviewed by an EPA toxicologist. Have those results been reviewed by a toxicologist at this point?

Yes, EPA did complete a toxicological review of all data. In speaking to the residents we advised them that our review did not identify any health concerns.

Also, since the 11 sampling results "did not show levels of contamination that could present a health concern" how should the yellow highlighted results be interpreted?

EPA highlighted parameters in the results to trigger an earlier review by a toxicologist and to expedite a quality assurance review should we need to take an immediate action to provide water. EPA conducted those reviews and found no health concerns. EPA officials can explain these results more thoroughly in our meeting with individual homeowners.

Roy Seneca
EPA Region 3 Press Officer
Office of Public Affairs
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(215) 814-5567

From: Laura Legere <llegere@timeshamrock.com>
To: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 03/15/2012 03:56 PM
Subject: Re: Dimock test results

Thanks, Roy.

I have one more question.

Some of the results returned to residents had yellow highlighted parameters that exceeded what was described in the cover letter as "trigger levels" based on risk-based screening levels and/or public water supply standards. Those highlighted results included arsenic, lithium, chromium, fluoride and sodium in one home. The cover letter said that those flagged results would be reviewed by an EPA toxicologist. Have those results been reviewed by a toxicologist at this point?

Also, since the 11 sampling results "did not show levels of contamination that could present a health concern" how should the yellow highlighted results be interpreted?

Thanks again,

Laura

On Thu, Mar 15, 2012 at 3:47 PM, Roy Seneca <Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:
Laura -- To avoid any confusion, the sentence regarding resampling wells with arsenic should say:

"EPA is also taking a second round of samples from the two homes where arsenic was detected, and although the levels **meet** drinking water standards, we will resample to better characterize the water quality of these wells."

Saying they are "below drinking water standards" could be misleading.

Hope this is clear. Thanks.

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From: Laura Legere <llegere@timeshamrock.com>
To: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 03/15/2012 03:31 PM
Subject: Re: Dimock test results

Thank you very much, Roy.

Best,

Laura

On Thu, Mar 15, 2012 at 3:25 PM, Roy Seneca <Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:
Laura -- Sorry for the delay in getting back to you. Here's an EPA statement that should answer all your questions. -- Roy

On Jan. 19, as a result of requests from residents and a review of the data we had in hand, EPA announced it would perform water sampling at approximately 60 homes in the Carter Road/Meshoppen Creek Road area of Dimock, Pa. to further assess whether any residents are being exposed to hazardous substances that cause health concerns.

The first round of sampling results is now available for the first 11 homes that were tested during the week of Jan. 23. Sampling results from these 11 homes did not show levels of contamination that could present a health concern. Samples from six of the 11 homes did show concentrations of sodium, methane, chromium or bacteria, but concentrations were all within the safe range for drinking water. The sampling results also identified the presence of arsenic at two homes.

Out of the 11 homes tested, there are currently three homes receiving an alternate water supply provided by EPA. EPA will continue to provide water to these homes while we perform additional sampling to ensure that the drinking water quality at these homes remains consistent and acceptable for use over time. EPA is also taking a second round of samples from the two homes where arsenic was detected, and although the levels are below drinking water standards, we will resample to better characterize the water quality of these wells. After receiving results from the second round of sampling, EPA will re-evaluate the need to continue providing an alternate water source.

EPA has offered to meet with all the residents to go over their data and answer any health-related concerns. As further quality assured data becomes available for the remaining homes, we will share with the homeowners in an expedited manner. Our actions will continue to be based on the science and the law as we work to help get a clear picture of water quality for these homes in Dimock.

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From: Laura Legere <llegere@timeshamrock.com>
To: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 03/15/2012 12:32 PM
Subject: Dimock test results

Hi Roy,

Terri asked me to forward these questions to you.

Thanks,

Laura Legere
Staff Writer
Scranton Times-Tribune
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llegere@timeshamrock.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Legere** <llegere@timeshamrock.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2012 at 11:26 AM
Subject: Dimock test results
To: Terri-A White <White.Terri-A@epamail.epa.gov>

Hi Terri,

I understand that EPA representatives are delivering individual test results to Dimock families this week and I was wondering if you can update me on the timeline for the release of information:

Have all test results been distributed to Dimock residents whose wells were sampled? Have they been shared with Cabot and the PA DEP? Have the EPA results been compared with the split samples taken by Cabot and DEP?

Has the EPA determined next steps in the Dimock investigation?

Does the EPA still plan to release a public summary of the test results and if so, do you know when it will be released?

Thanks very much for your help. I'm hoping to write about this today for tomorrow.

Best,

Laura Legere
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